LONG BEACH WATER DEPARTMENT
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PRESS RELEASE

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California Coastal Commission Approves Coastal Development Permit for Innovative Under Ocean Floor Desalination Demonstration System

SANTA BARBARA, CA – The California Coastal Commission has authorized the Long Beach Water Department to conduct a seafloor bathymetry survey and begin hydrogeological testing for the proposed Under Ocean Floor Seawater Intake and Discharge Demonstration System, part of the Long Beach Water Department's overall seawater desalination research and development project. The results of the hydrogeological and bathymetry tests will establish the actual length and construction feasibility of the proposed intake and discharge demonstration system. Long Beach Water officials plan to demonstrate a cost-effective and environmentally responsive alternative to traditional open ocean intake and discharge systems.

A coastal development permit is required from the California Coastal Commission for the Under Ocean Floor Intake and Discharge Demonstration System because work would occur on State Tidelands within the Coastal Commission's area of jurisdiction.

The Under Ocean Floor Intake and Discharge Demonstration System is the first project of its kind in the United States to use existing, century-old, slow sand filtration processes, applying it in an innovative manner for seawater desalination systems. With the proposed system, Long Beach Water officials believe that the negative environmental impacts typically associated with open ocean intakes are minimized. "By drawing seawater through the beach sand, this system may allow us to avoid potential ecological impacts of entrainment and impingement associated with open water intakes," stated Kevin L. Wattier, General Manager of the Long Beach Water Department.

Separately, the Long Beach Water Department has constructed a large-scale seawater desalination research and development facility located in southeast Long Beach at the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power's Haynes Generation Station. This facility, the largest of its kind in the United States, is focused on reducing energy consumption, improving water quality and studying the affects of desalinated seawater on public water distribution systems, among other things.

The Long Beach Water Department is an urban, southern California water supply agency.

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